



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	De Francesco et al.		
Serial No.:	10/085,476	Case No.:	IT0002PCA
Filed:	February 27, 2002		
For:	METHOD FOR REPRODUCING IN VITRO THE RNA-DEPENDENT RNA POLYMERASE AND TERMINAL NUCLEOTIDYL TRANSFERASE ACTIVITIES ENCODED BY HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV)		

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment

Sir:

Please amend the specification by inserting an abstract on a separate page after the claims, as follows:

--Abstract

The present invention relates to the molecular biology and virology of the hepatitis C virus (HCV). An object of the present invention is a method to reproduce *in vitro* the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase activity of HCV that makes use of sequences contained in the HCV NS5B protein.--

37 C.F.R. 1.8 Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date appearing below.

MERCK & CO., INC.

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DATE: 4-23-02

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Remarks

The present amendment adds an abstract. Support for the abstract can be found in the originally filed application, for example, on page 1, line 5-6 and page 3, lines 33-36.

Please charge deposit account 13-2755 for fees due in connection with this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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